A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR DEVELOPMENT

A Sketch of Early Settlers and the Difficulties Which Confronted Them and How They Were Overcome---Our Natural Resources Only Awaiting Capital and Brains to Release Vast Wealth.

Egypt—What wonderful remembrance of stories the word Egypt brings to mind. One can picture Joseph and his brethern on their way to the land of plenty; his ascendency into favor with Potiphar, how the country prospered under his secretaryship, and how he afterward got even with his brothers by charging them two prices for corn. Afterwards, how his brethern and their descendants were held in bondage by the Pharoahs, until Moses arrived and led them out of slavery to the Land of Canaan—flowing with milk and honey.

But it is not of that. Egypt of the Pharoahs, Potiphar and Cleopatra, who lived centuries ago on the banks of the classic Nile, but of the Egypt of the Western World—a land flowing with all the good things that modern civilization and science can produce—that we wish to tell you of.

It is that portion of the grand old "Prairie State" of Illinois which lies south of the 17th parallel. From the counties of St. Clair, Clinton, Marion, Clay Richland and Lawrence on the north, to the banks of the mighty Ohio river on the south, you will find the Egypt of the New World. It is just as rich as Egypt of old.

When the first spring winds from the cotton states come, they sweep up the basin of Egypt, bringing to life all the blessings and joys of Mother Earth. Nearly all the fruits of the world are found in this vast land, and can be had with very little effort on the part of Mankind.

The first white men to discover the new Egypt were Robert De La-Salle and his band of adventurous Frenchmen, who came from Quebec, Canada, by way of the Great Lakes, the St. Joseph, Kankakee, Illinois and Mississippi rivers. They floated down the Illinois, established posts at points where now stand the thriving cities of LaSalle and Peoria, and when they reached the broad bosom of the Father of Waters, they drifted

on to the sea, which they reached in the early summer. In the year 1682 formal possession was taken of the Mississippi and all countries bordering thereon in the name of the King of France. LaSalle and his party then retracted their steps. He returned to France, obtained another fleet of 24 vessels from the King, and sailed for Louisiana. He was disappointed in not finding the mouth of the Mississippi, but found a site for a fort on Matagordo Bay, which he named St. Louis. This bay indents the shore of Texas.

LaSalle then started on a hunt, across country, for the Father of Waters. On March 20th, 1687, some of his men, who had been cherishing a grudge against LaSalle, waylaid and shot him. They also slew one of his nephews.

The name "Illini" is a Delaware word meaning superior men; and her men have lived up to that distinction. But it is of Egypt and Perry county of which we particularly wish to speak. We are in the heart of the greatest valley in the world, the vast region between the mountains—a valley that can feed mankind for 1000 years. Egypt of this valley was given the name by the settlers of the Wabash and Illinois valleys, when their crops were a total failure in 1834. Not so with the country which lies south of where the B. & O. R. R. now traverses the state, from east to west; and to this land came the settlers from the north and east to replenish their granaries and

procure seed for another crop. These settlers likened themselves unto Joseph and his brethern of biblical times, being sent into Egypt to buy corn. And the name has remained to the present, and to-day the people are proud of the title—"Egyptian." Egypt is in the great temperate belt, in which have been found nearly all the aggressive civilization of history. The climate is variable and favors every product of the continent, including the tropics, with few exceptions. It produces every great nutriment of the world, except bananas and rice. It is hardly too much to say that it is the most productive spot known in the world. With the soil full of bread and the earth full of minerals; with an upper surface of food and an under layer of fuel; with perfect natural drainage, it is not strange that Egypt has an advantage in position. This advantage has been supplemented by the character of her population, of which Perry county is the center.

A letter from Fort Chartres, dated June 8, 1750, says: "At Illinois we have whites, negroes and Indians, to say nothing of the cross-breeds. There are five French villages and three villages of the natives, within a space of 21 leagues, between the Mississippi and another river called the Karkadiad (Kaskaskia.) In the five French villages are perhaps 1100 whites, 300 blacks and some 60 red slaves or savages. The three Illinois towns do not contain more than 1500 souls, all told. Most of the French till the soil. They raise wheat, cattle, pigs and horses, and live like princes. Three times as much is produced as can be consumed and great quantities of grain and flour are sent to New Orleans."

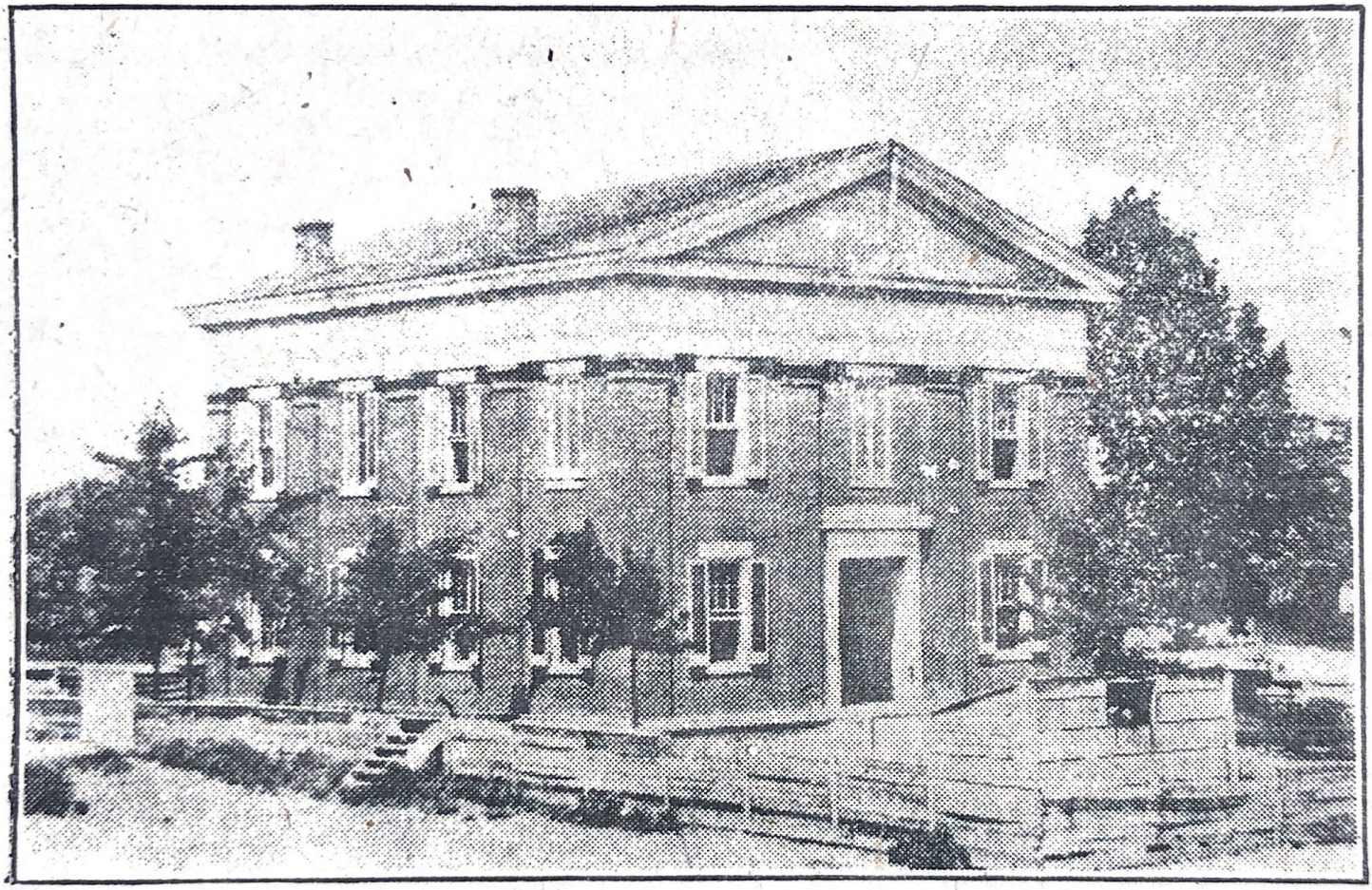
Another letter from New Orleans dated Nov. 17th, 1750, says: "To this point came all kinds of lumber, bricks, salt, beef, tallow, tar, skins and bear's grease; and above all, flour and pork from Illinois."

It will be seen from the above ex-

tracts that Egypt for more than a century and a half has been the garden of the Mississippi valley.

At the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, the French were more in sympathy with the Americans than with the English. Illinois was so far away from the Atlantic coast that they were little disturbed by the rumors of war. Illinois, at that time, belonged to the jurisdiction of Virginia. George Rogers Clarke, a back-woodsman of Kentucky, was the first to see the advantages which would result in having Illinois in possession of the Americans. He visited Virginia in 1775 and laid his plans before Patrick Henry, governor. Clarke got his instructions in January, 1778. He raised four companies of men, started from Corn Island, near Louisville, Ky., in canoes, for Kaskaskia. Clarke left his boats near Fort Massac, and started on his journey overland to Kaskaskia. This was the first time any considerable body of white men had ever traversed Egypt. On the night of June 28, 1778, Clarke's command bivouaced on the banks of Beaucoup creek, about three miles below Pinckneyville. On the afternoon of July 4, Clarke and his men arrived near Kaskaskia.

In 1682 Illinois was a possession of the French. In 1765 the English flag waved over Fort Chartres. In 1778 it was surrendered to George Rogers Clarke, and since then she has steadily advanced under the protecting folds of "Old Glory!"



PERRY COUNTY COURT HOUSE FROM 1850 TO 1879.

PINCKNEYVILLE—PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Surrounded by Fertile Lands, with an Abundance of Good Water, Untold Quantities of Coal, and Her Citizenship Unsurpassed, She Bids Fair to Become the Zenith City of Egypt.

Pinckneyville is located near the center of Perry county, Illinois, 63 miles southeast of St. Louis, on the St. Louis & Cairo and Eldorado divisions of the Illinois Central and the Wabash, Chester & Western railroads. It has always been the county seat, and at the present time has a population of 3,500. The residents are for the most part Americans and German-Americans, with a sprinkling of French and Italians.

Pinckneyville precinct is the largest in the county. The surface is undulating, with here and there a small prairie. The greater portion, how-

ever, was formerly covered with a heavy growth of timber, nearly all of which has given away to productive farms. The soil is fertile and well adapted to agriculture. If we are to believe the tradition handed down from father to son, this precinct is the first settlement in the county. In 1799 John Flack came with his family and settled in Six Mile prairie. When he located there he found only one other white man, named Cox. Whence this man Cox came from, and where he went to, we don't know. The original John Flack left one son, John, born in 1803, and he was probably the first child born of white parents in the county.

H. B. Jones kept the postoffice at his residence near the Big Spring, in 1827 or 1828. The Kentucky Reporter was the first newspaper of general circulation in this county.

Joseph Wells kept the first licensed tavern in Pinckneyville in the year 1829. His little log cabin stood on the corner now occupied by the Wilson-Ritchey store, and was the first house ever put up in Pinckneyville.

David Baldridge rented the court house from the Commissioners to keep store in from April to October 1830. Except during terms of court Baldridge was to pay 75c a month rent for it. Before the establishment of dry goods stores in Pinckneyville, the settlers made pilgrimages once or twice a year to St. Louis.

In 1828 the settlers met in Pinckneyville to cut roads out of the timber, so it would be possible for teams to get into town. They divided into parties and opened a road east to the county line, one to Six Mile prairie, to the west and another to the north, toward Nashville.

In 1825--26 the farmers made most of their own plows. They were known as the bull-tongue pat-

terns of plow, and in many instances were constructed out of a forked stick, one fork answering for the beam, the other acting as plow and doing the scratching. When the settlers first saw an iron plow at work in 1830, they declared it would ruin the land, because it turned up the ground so sleek. Bergen Happy made the first plow shares in Pinckneyville about 1830.

The first sale of lots in Pinckneyville took place on the first Monday

in February, 1828. Twenty-four lots were sold and netted the fabulous sum of $1,223.87 1-2.

No organization was effected until March 17, 1857, when an election was held on the question of incorporation, and the proposition was carried by a vote of 29 to 2. William Hammick was president of the election and William McEwing clerk. On the 26th of the same month an election was held and John Baird, J. L. Mann, S. M. Carter, Philip Gruner and A. D. Gosney were elected trustees.

On April 17, 1888, an election

was held on the question of city organization, which was carried by a vote of 161 to 33. The first election under city government was held on May 22, 1888, and J. L. Murphy was elected mayor and E. C. Hays clerk. Following is a list of the mayors and clerks to the present time:

MAYORS.

T. L. Murphy	1888—1893
J. L Williams	1893—1895
Geo. F. Mead	1895—1901
Henry R. Schulze	1901—1903
W. H. Smith	1903—1905
Geo. F. Mead	1905—1907
W. W. Sims	1907—1909
Geo. W. Pillers	1909—1913
Dr. J. S. Templeton	1913—1915

CLERKS.

E. C. Hays	1888—1891
S. S. Ritchey	1891—1895
A. B. Clark	1895—1899
T. L. Wallace	1899—1901
P. J. C. Hamm	1901—1905
W. W. Burk	1905—1909
Wm. Brey	1909—1911
W. W. Burk	1911—1913
P. J. C. Hamm	1913—1915

The question, "What has Pinckneyville to offer as inducements for people to locate here?" brings up such a wide range of thought of excellence possessed by the city that a writer or one who answers the question becomes bewildered in the field. So apparent are these advantages displayed on every hand that our citizens would really prefer people who are seeking a location to come among us and see for themselves, rather than read the indescribable advantages attempted to be depicted in the space allotted to this article.

Surely no more pleasant little city than Pinckneyville can be found in which to make a home. Our educational facilities are unsurpassed by any in Egypt. Christian people will find a home in this place where they may enjoy to the fullest extent

the privileges of seven churches.

Pinckneyville is surrounded by rich agricultural and orchard lands. The trade tributary to the city is gilt edge. The farmers not only possess the soil that makes them prosperous, but this is a central trading point for them.

There is no town in Southern Illinois that is more favorably situated for manufacturing purposes, as the supplies of coal, water and timber are found in unlimited quantities.

WALNUT STREET, PINCKNEYVILLE, LOOKING SOUTH

FARM SCENE NEAR PINCKNEYVILLE

GARDEN SPOT OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Where Every Broad Acre Is Rich in All the Elements of Plant Growth and Ready to Yield Abundant Reward to the Efforts of Intelligent Labor---Not a Barren Acre in the County.

Alexander, the Great, would not have wept for other worlds to conquer had he landed in Pinckneyville. His lachrymose demonstrations certainly would have consisted of tears of joy, and he would have pitched his little tent and camped, content to spend the remainder of his days in the garden spot of the world. The chances are that Adam overlooked a good bet when he failed to select Perry county, Illinois, as his Garden of Eden; but the fact that more than 25,000 of his descendants have since decided on this as their place of abode shows that the poor judgment of the pioneer citizen of Mother Earth has been counterbalanced by the good judgment of those who came later.

Perry county is almost the form of a square, being about 22 miles each way, and covers an area of 441 square miles. It contains a population of about 25,000 people. The surface is generally rolling prairies and post oak flats. The soil is adapted for the growing of all kinds of fruit and grain, particularly winter wheat and oats. For raising stock it is unexcelled. The coal deposits underlying this county have never been determined, but it has been estimated by some geologists that there are no less than 100 feet of dusky diamonds.

The civil history of Perry county very properly begins with the passage, by the First General Assembly of the state, of an act creating this county, and approved Jan. 29, 1827. The county was named in honor of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of Lake Erie, who defeated the British in a naval battle.

The county seat was selected by three commissioners, to-wit: Edward Humphries and Samuel Crawford of Randolph county and Singleton Kimmel of Jackson county, who met at the home of Joseph Anderson, situated on the west half of the southwest quarter, section 22, township 5 south, range 2 west of third princi-

pal meridian. Mr. Anderson's home was built of logs. The owners of the land selected, donated 20 acres for county buildings and town lots, to be sold for the benefit of the county seat. The county seat was named Pinckneyville.

The first county commissioners—John R. Hutchings, David R. Mead and Elijah Wells—met at the home of Amos Anderson, about two and one-half miles east of the present city, where they took the oath of office on the 4th day of June, 1827. Humphrey B. Jones was the first county clerk, and Daniel Dry was the first treasurer of the county.

One of the first acts of the commissioners was to order a tax of "one-third per cent on all town lots, which are not taxed by the trustees, which may be appointed to the town of Pinckneyville; on all slaves and indentured negroes or mulatto servants; on pleasure carriages; on all distilleries, on stock in trade; on all horses, mares, mules, asses and neat cattle above 3 years of age; on watches and their appendages, and on all bank stock."

Amos Anderson applied for a license to keep a tavern or house of public entertainment, at his home in the county, for one year. This license was granted, and he paid the magnificent sum of $1.50 for the same. The following rates and prices would make the "tank" of today smile with joy if he could find such easy picking: Whisky, 25c per pint; rum, brandy, wine, gin, peach or apple brandy or cherry bounce, 18 3-4c; [illegible] per night; breakfast

or supper, 18 3-4c; dinner, 25c.

William C. Murphy produced in court his bond as sheriff. It was for $10,000 and was signed by Wm. Adair, W. H. Threlkel, Hugh Brown, George Franklin and Robert B. Murphy as sureties. The bond sets forth that he was elected on the 7th day of May, 1827. Mr. Murphy took the "duel" oath and filed his commission, signed by Ninian Edwards, governor.

At the second meeting of the commissioners, on Sept. 3, 1827, Daniel Dry was granted a license to keep a tavern, and was allowed $10 for assessing the taxable property of the county. It took him seven days to do the work.

At the request of a number of citizens of the county, by petition, James Crain, Abner Pyle and George Swanwick met at the home of Geo. Franklin on Oct. 22, 1827, and, after an examination of a certain section of the county, designated by the petitioners, reported to the county court that they believed the northeast quarter of section 24, in township 5 south, range 3 west of third principal meridian, to be "the most eligible and best calculated for the permanent seat of justice of this county."

An order was made appointing Joel Manning, of Jackson county, Wm. T. Swanwick and Humphrey B. Jones to lay out 20 acres of said tract into lots, "with a public square, streets and alleys, so that the whole shall be conveniently and properly situated, and arranged in conformity with the approved plan of towns and villages similarly situated."

The first sale of town lots was ordered on the fourth Monday of February, 1828, and that no lot should be sold for less than $5.00.

The first bridge built in Perry county was across Beaucoup creek, just east of Pinckneyville. It was built by Joseph Wells, and he guaranteed it to last five years.

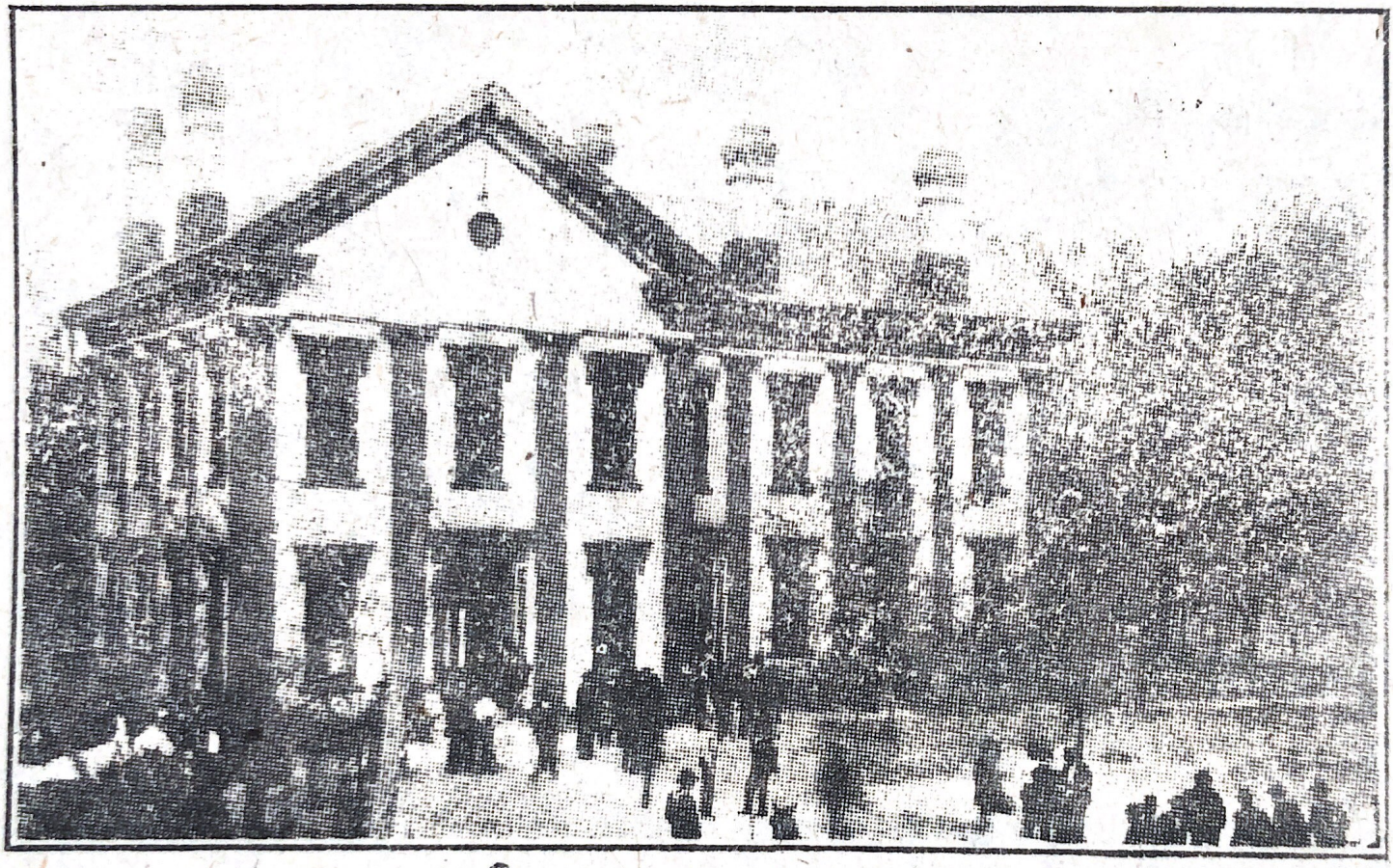
In 1831 licenses to sell goods were

granted to Daniel Dry, David Baldridge and Limick & Demming—for a fee of $5.00 each.

The first court house erected would make a nice size coal shed for some of our people of today. It was built of hewn logs; the floor was laid with puncheons, with good hewn joists, but with no floor above, and the roof was of clapboards. It stood on the lot now occupied by the First National bank building; it had one window in the east and a door in the west end. Berry Anderson put up the building and received $54 for the job at the September (1828) term of court.

The second court house was completed in the fall of 1837, two years after it had been started. It was located about the center of the square and was 43x43 feet. It was of brick and two stories in height; had doors in the north, south and west sides, and had fire-places above and below. It was erected by Amos Anderson at a cost of $1,765. The bank building on the north side of the square is built from the brick that were first used in this court house.

The third court house was completed December 3, 1850, at a cost of $7,500, and Daniel W. Norris was the contractor. The building was erected west of the old court house, on the spot occupied by the main building to-day, and was 46x36 feet. A picture of that building is shown on this page; also a picture of the present palace of justice. This last building was received from the contractor, William G. Wilson, April 30, 1879. The cost was $92,742.



THE PRESENT PALACE OF JUSTICE